



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Falls Church City Police Warn Citizens To Avoid Needles, Syringes in Parks and on School Grounds

In recent weeks, citizens have reported finding needles and syringes in some Falls Church City Parks and on City Public School grounds. Police are continuing increased patrol in these areas and warn citizens to not pick up any needles or syringes found in a public place. Instead, citizens should immediately call Falls Church Police at 703-241-5053.

If a needle/syringe is found:

- Do not touch it
- Do not hide it
- Do not let anyone else touch it
- Do not place it in a litter bin

If the needle/syringe poses an immediate danger, or there is a delay in its collection, citizens should take the following precautions:

- Find a suitable container, eg: metal drink can, in which to place the needle/syringe.
- Handle the syringe carefully avoiding the needle. Ideally this should be done with tongs, tweezers or heavy duty gloves.
- Put the sharp end in the container first.
- Wash hands thoroughly with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds.
- Keep the container in a safe place until it is collected.

The Falls Church Police Department, in partnership with the Schools and Recreation & Parks divisions, is committed to keeping City grounds clean and safe. The person(s) found responsible for this disposal of hazardous materials will face criminal charges.

Anyone with information regarding the disposal of these syringes/needles around parks and schools is urged to call Falls Church Police at 703-241-5053.

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